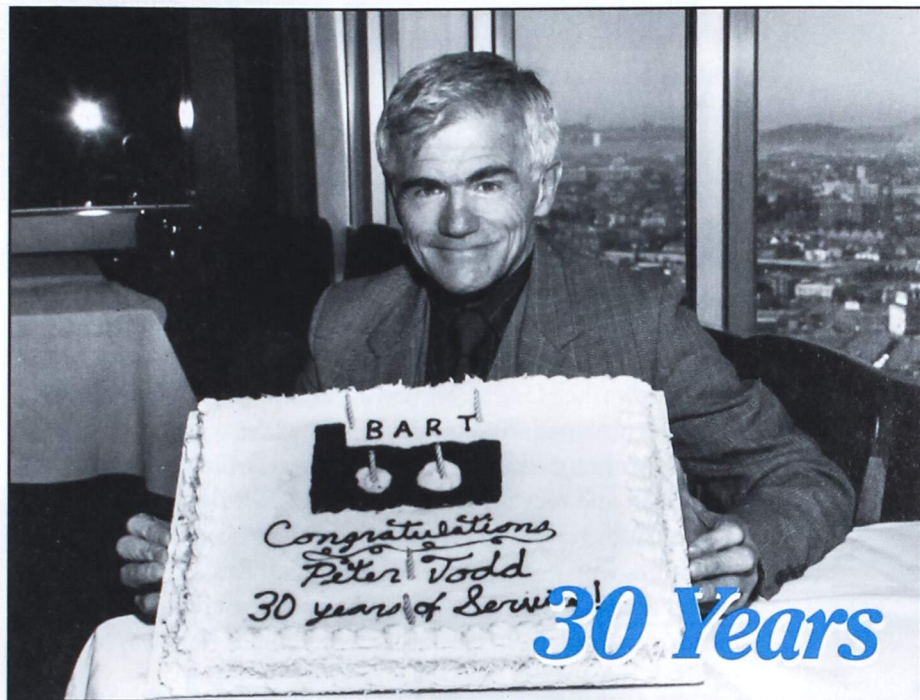


January 1996

Vol. 16 No. 1

BARTalk

Peter Todd Chalks Up 30 Years with BART



*Congratulations to **Peter Todd**, the first BART employee to reach 30 years of service with the District.*

After more than 30 years of service, Supervising Engineer Peter Todd, Electrical and Mechanical Engineering, was recently lauded as BART's most senior employee. Perhaps best known as BART's "guru" on corrosion control and traction power, Peter first joined BART in October 1965 to work on the test track on rail fasteners electrical parameters. This work led to fastener designs that are used in the industry today. He later developed a patent on the design of rail insulation, which he sold to BART for \$1.00. Implementation of his design on the BART system is expected in 1997.

Born in Germany, Peter was educated in the United States, graduating from high school in New Jersey and receiving his electrical engineering degree from Cornell University. He worked for the Port Authority of New York/New Jersey and the Trans-Hudson railway before coming to California in 1965 to work for BART. A member of the National Association of Corrosion Engineers and Toastmasters, Peter is also an avid runner. **b**

Develop Career Through Workshop Series

BART employees interested in career development may attend a series of three workshops in February and March.

Career Planning uses self-assessment, facilitated discussion and exercises to develop a career action plan. The workshop is scheduled for February 1 and February 15, Noon to 2 p.m. at the Oakland Training Center, 25 Fourth Street, Oakland.

Interviewing helps employees to perfect their interviewing techniques, with an emphasis on enhancing accomplishments. The session is scheduled for March 7 and March 14, Noon to 3 p.m. at the Oakland Training Center.

Effective Writing focuses on communication skills, including business correspondence and resume writing. Participants are encouraged to bring resumes and current writing assignments. The session is scheduled February 7 and February 14, 9 a.m. to Noon, at the Oakland Training Center.

To register, please call extension 6293. All classes are a prerequisite for employees wishing to participate in BART's Shadow Program, which allows supervisors and foreworkers to spend a week in a job that matches their career goal. **b**



*25 Years with BART: Honored for 25 years of service to BART recently were (left to right) **David M. Coleman** and **Michael Thurgood**.*

BART Bowling League Adds Two More Teams; Concord Shop Wins First Tourney in '96

The BART Bowling League has added two more teams to its roster – Concord Shop and Treasury – and hosted the first tournament of the new year on January 20.

Concord Shop claimed victory in games held at the Albany Bowl, with a team score of 2,756 against Treasury's 2,286, Richmond Yard's 2,246 and Hayward Yard's 2,220. The next tournament will be hosted by Concord Shop at Diablo Lanes in Concord at 3 p.m. on Saturday, February 17.

"It's a new year with new standings," exclaimed Andy Williams, foreperson at the Richmond Yard and league organizer. "We started this league for fun, and welcome anyone who'd like to put a team together or join an existing team."

Richmond Yard came into the January 20 tourney as the reigning champ with a 3-2 record from 1995. But Concord Shop rose to the challenge with team members John O'Leary, Elly Divino Sr., Dave Gentry, Dennis Wilkerson and Mike Drazenovich. Other newcomers joined veteran bowlers to try and outdo them, but Concord's bravado was just too much to match. Treasury's team of Sunny Marks, Franco DeGuzman, Terry Carney and Johnnie Hicks will have to wait for another day, along with Richmond Yard's mavericks Don Wells, James Bonds, William Person, Beverly Carson and Andy Williams. Hayward Yard's David Adams, Chris Hudson, Walt Jusino and David

Freeman will also have to rethink their strategy for the next round of games in February.

For now, the coveted trophy (a polished bowling pin) resides in the Concord Shop. As they say in the lottery ads, "...who's next?" Will Concord keep the pin or relinquish it to another team?

Polish your bowling ball and be there to cheer on your favorite team at Diablo Lanes on February 17. For more information and to sign up your team, contact Andy Williams at the Richmond Yard, ext. 5100. **b**

BART Foreworker Teams Up With Mom to Recycle

Foreworker Linda Callihan and her mother, Vivian, have been named "Super Recyclers" by West County Recycles, a program of Richmond Sanitation, which handles waste collection and recycling for the City of Richmond.

Linda says she learned the importance of recycling from her mom, who grew up in the Depression Era. Vivian says the lesson of using what's needed today and preserving the rest for tomorrow came from her father, who taught her to appreciate nature's resources.

Having worked at a solid waste facility in Seattle before coming to California, Linda is concerned about landfill space.

"It's so important to recycle things that can be kept out of the waste buried in landfill," she said in a recent West County Recycles newsletter. "If we don't recycle, there won't be space for us to use in the future."

Active in environmental and animal protection organizations, Linda and Vivian keep a list of products harmful to the environment taped above their kitchen cabinet. "We don't buy products where companies have done tests on animals or products that are not biodegradable," notes Vivian. Whenever possible, they buy in bulk to cut down on unnecessary packaging.

Recycling drivers visiting the Callihans always find clean glass, crushed aluminum cans and milk jugs ready to go. As a "thank you," Linda and Vivian received a red rose and pine sampling from drivers at Christmas.

Linda was recently promoted to Foreworker. As a train operator she placed second in BART's Rodeo in May 1995, and competed at the national event in New York City last June. **b**



*20 Years with BART: Congratulations were extended recently for 20 years of service to BART to (left to right) **Leroy C. Pierce, Emily Perez, Martin C. Gent, Josephine Parento and David R. Williams.***

The Angel and the \$2 Million Man

Electronics Technician Don Birkhimer believes he has a guardian angel. Just before Christmas, Don became the latest Californian to spin the wheel in the California Lottery and win \$2 million. Yes, that's \$2 million.

As Don tells it, one day he was in Martinez having breakfast at a local coffee shop. On the way out, he spent a dollar on a "scratcher" ticket for the Lottery. He scratched off three "TV show" icons, which sent him to Sacramento to compete on "The Big Spin" television program. Many of his family members made the trek to the Capitol City to witness Don's opportunity at fortune.

His chance came on a show taped Saturday, December 2. First Don won a preliminary round, "The Winners Circle," where a motorized ball landed in his slot -- lucky Number 7. As he approached the wheel, Don told show host Larry Anderson that his first spin would be a "double" -- it was. Then when asked what the next spin would reveal, Don predicted \$1 million -- and the ball landed in the \$1 million slot, making Don a double-winner and the 296th person to win a prize of \$1 million or more in the Big Spin since the show began in 1986.

The first check arrived before Christmas, says Don. "I started telling my co-workers what happened, but nobody believed me," he recalls. "So I told them to just watch the show on December 30." After that, people believed.

On the show, Don's wife, Royetta and two of his four chil-

dren, 13-year-old Audrey and 11-year-old Marc, rushed to the stage to surround him with love as Don basked in the glory of winning the Lottery. (He and Royetta have two other sons, Aaron, 24 and John, 22.) He was applauded by the studio audience for his good fortune and likely by many well-wishers from BART watching at home.

After winning his prize, the mainline technician told Lottery officials he would not quit his job with BART. "I love what I do," said Don, who's been with BART for over 21 years. "When I walk into a BART car that has broken down and I fix it, I walk out to 1,000 people applauding me. How many jobs give you that kind of appreciation and recognition?"

Now, Royetta is "busy shopping for new furniture," says Don, who is cleaning out old household items to donate to his church and the Contra Costa Association for the Retarded. "We'll pay off the house, the credit cards and then see where we are," he said, noting it would be about five to six years "before we see a difference." But an education fund is in the works for his younger children and Don says he feels "truly blessed." Which way did that angel fly? **b**

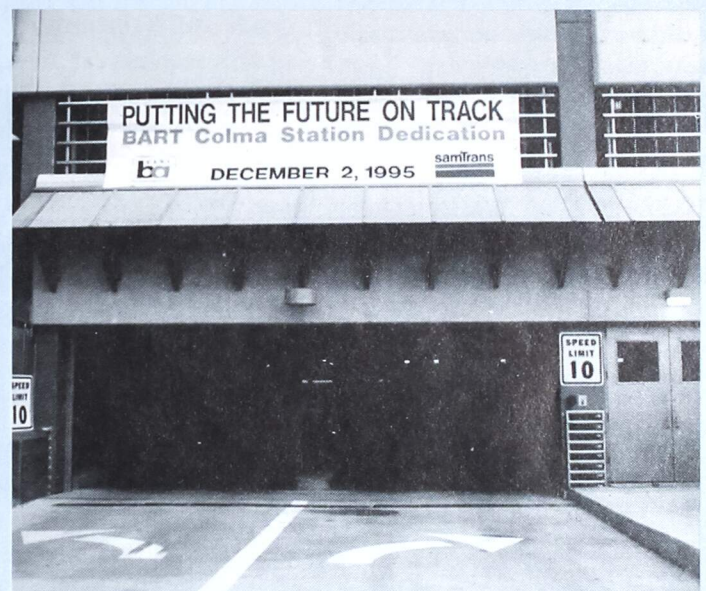
New Hire Orientation Scheduled in February, March

Newly hired employees may attend an Orientation scheduled for February 7-8 or March 26-27. The sessions will be held from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Oakland Training Center, 25 Fourth Street, Oakland.

Topics covered during the two-day orientation include BART history and values; general rules; discrimination policy; system safety, including emergency and earthquake preparedness, back safety, working with computers, workplace violence and BART's needlestick program; substance abuse and employee counseling; worker's compensation; benefits and incentive awards; customer service; the Extensions Program; a tour of Central Operations and the Lake Merritt Station, and a Union presentation.

Supervisors may register employees by E-Mail or by contacting Yolanda Vega, Training and Development via fax (464-6386) with the following information: employee name, department and cost center, job classification or title; supervisor's name, location and telephone number. All employees should bring their OR&P manual on the first day of class.

For more information, please call 464-6293. **b**



Colma Station Preview

BART employees and their families can get a "sneak preview" of the new Colma Station at an Open House scheduled for Saturday, February 17. The event will be held from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. and is also open to SamTrans employees and their families.

Activities during the celebration include tours; light refreshments; a "Bounce-Walk" for the children; carnival entertainment with clowns, jugglers and acrobats; music; raffle prizes and commemorative items.

Employees riding BART to the Daly City Station are reminded to show their employee identification to ride a special shuttle train to the new Colma Station. **b**

BART Employees Show 'Gift for Giving'

BART employees once again demonstrated their generosity this holiday season by sponsoring several programs for needy families and local charities. Here are a few:



Making the holidays bright is "Angel Pro Tem" Tish Hosmer, who organized a holiday drive in Transit System Development that provided \$1,000 worth of food and gifts to two needy families in Oakland.

1994 and two again this year. Tish found the families through Alameda County's social services department. She interviewed five, and selected two families as most needy.

"This year, I was so busy that I didn't get around to doing the collection until very late," recalls Tish, who usually recruits a committee to help. But made the rounds she did, and collected \$1,000.00 in just three days. Then she went shopping.

A true bargain hunter, Tish stretched the money to provide a bounty of food, clothing and gifts to a mother and three children, and a mother and one child. Each family received a complete Christmas dinner. "The mothers received two outfits and perfume, and each child received seven to eight gifts and clothing," she said. "The boys wanted electronic games and one girl wanted a doll stroller — at the first trip to the store, I couldn't find one but I went back the next day and there it was — high on a shelf!"

Tish hadn't gone shopping until very late the Friday before Christmas, spent all night wrapping gifts, took a nap, got her hair done, made one more shopping trip and then personally delivered the gifts to the families with her husband, Ed. The gifts were piled high in Ed's pick-up truck as the Hosmers made the journey from their Pittsburg home back into Oakland to visit the families. Luckily, Tish did not cook Christmas dinner this year — she ordered a pre-cooked meal from a local grocer and stayed home on Christmas Day — exhausted, but happy from her holiday "recreation."

As if this was not enough, Tish has agreed to be a Big Sister to a 14-year-old girl from one of the families. "I'm really into

There are some people in Transit System

Development who liken Tish Hosmer to BART's version of Mother Theresa. But Tish refuses to take personal credit for her good deeds to help the needy, especially children.

Tish is well known for her charitable work, and this year organized "From Our Hearts to You" for employees in Systems Integration and Bay Area Transit Consultants to help out local families in need. This is the program's second year, which benefitted two families in

kids," says Tish, "I want her to know she can do better and see a better world."

"If everyone at BART did this, just think how many people would have a Merry Christmas," notes Tish, a six-year administrative secretary. "But don't make a big deal out of me — it's the people here who are generous."

Too late, Tish. "I have seen Tish work hard, never for self-gratitude, always for the benefit of someone else," said Nina Paulette Henderson in Systems Integration. "Tish is truly a light for all of us here at Development, but more importantly, a light for needy children."

The Information Technology Department adopted a family through Alameda County's social services department.

The family of a single mother and three daughters was from Oakland. "Since we all work in Oakland, we wanted to help a local family," said Bridget Schafer, computer support coordinator and organizer of her department's holiday activity.

Employees drew lots for gifts — paper ornaments hung on a tree, depicting toys, clothing and other items — or made cash donations, said Bridget. With 39 people in Information Technology, the activity generated about \$1,000.00 worth of gifts, clothing and food. Each girl - ages 8, 4 and 18 months - received three toys and two outfits, and the mother received clothing and personal items. "We also provided a gift certificate for groceries, a food basket and a disposable camera so mom could take pictures on Christmas," said Bridget.

Four employees personally delivered the gifts to the family. There were hugs all around, Bridget recalled. "This was the first time this family had been adopted, and they were so thankful. We got a thank you card from the mother, and a real cute drawing and thank you note from the children."

The Real Estate Services Department took up a collection and donated \$270.00 to the Oakland Homeless Families Agency, said Laura King, senior real estate officer. The agency serves as a pantry for 38 families who are "a step away" from homelessness. "Instead of giving each other gifts, this year we decided to help out a local agency that served Oakland families," said Laura. The donation helped buy staples for 20 families for a week.

"The case worker told us that our donation was very important; this year, donations were going for food rather than gifts for children because overall giving was down and the need was greater for food," she noted.

continued next page ►

'Gift for Giving' *continued*

The BART Police Annual Food Drive was once again a resounding success. Now in its 17th year, BART employees always show their thoughtfulness by donating canned and dry food or money to help feed underprivileged families living in the District. According to Sgt. Gary Cagaanan, the 1995 program raised \$2,000.00 and fed 200 people. Among the beneficiaries were battered women's shelters in San Francisco, Fremont and Berkeley and a housing development for low income families in Richmond.

BART officers and community service assistants dedicated two days of volunteer time to deliver the food gifts just before Christmas. "The families were overwhelmed and very grateful," said Gary. "It's hard to describe in words their gratitude; we see it in their faces and hear it in their voices; we know we've helped."



Helping to make the BART Police Annual Food Drive a success were (left to right) Officers Sheldon Forehand and Al Ward; Sgt. Gary Cagaanan; Community Service Assistants Jaime Aquitania, Daniel Chui and Kimberly Flaherty; Officer Dave Armacost; Revenue Guard Harvey Moore; Sgt. John Junier and Community Service Assistant Stephanie Sims.

1995 Campaign Raises \$48,000

The 1995 Charitable Contribution Campaign generated more than \$48,000.00 in donations to benefit local non-profit organizations, announced campaign coordinator Hershell Levi. The annual drive generated \$48,807.40, which was \$1,486.40 more than the 1994 campaign.



"Thanks to everyone who donated and to BART employees who served as donor representatives to help make the campaign a success," said Hershell. The theme for the 1995 campaign was "BART-Connecting Cities and People." **b**



Packing up food to deliver for the BART Police Annual Food Drive are Community Service Assistants Stephanie Sims (left) and Olivia Spicer.

Senior Office Supervisor Karen Morris in Real Estate decided to adopt a family for Christmas that she had known for several years. "The mother lost her government job a few years ago due to downsizing and has since retired because she cannot find a job," said Karen. Her retirement check supports the Oakland woman and her son, but it's been difficult, notes Karen. "She has had the Salvation Army pay her electric bill and hardly has any money for food."

Karen put together a Christmas basket filled with food, personal items, books and grocery store gift certificates. In the past, Karen has given to nonprofits that help the needy, but this was the first time she gave to someone she personally knew. "I truly did not know how the family would react, but the smiles and words spoken said it all," Karen recalled. "I got a warm feeling and felt blessed that I could give to someone less fortunate. I encourage everyone to give in their own special way." **b**

CPR

Are you prepared to save a life? Possibly the life of a child—maybe one of your own? Or the life of a complete stranger? It could happen! Knowing how to apply CPR, cardiopulmonary resuscitation, could save a life.

Call Ext. 6292/6293.

NEW ARRIVALS?

Have there been any new arrivals lately in your family? If so, we'd like to know and share the news with our BARTalk readers. Call us with the particulars on Ext. 7115.

Booth Decor Shows Holiday Spirit

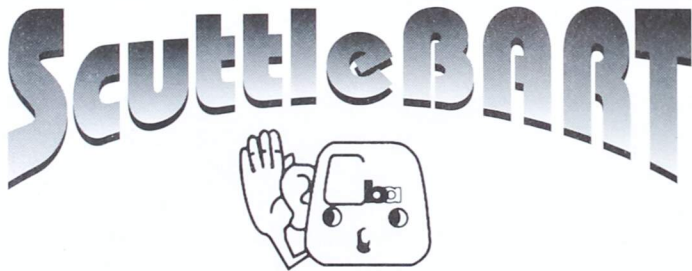


The Glen Park station crew showed the greatest holiday spirit to win First Place in the annual Holiday Booth Decoration Contest with its entry, "Christmas at the North Pole." Kudo's to Pat Corbett, Joe Matou and Lisa Bernabe. Second Place went to Berkeley's "Merry Christmas," a town scene created by Fred Evens, Jackie Paul, Helen Green, Diane Forbes and Heidi Nichols. "The First Christmas" at the Embarcadero Station took Third Place thanks to the talent of Mary Ann Engler-Contreras and Jim Danzy.

Congratulations to all other station crews who participated in the 1995 competition – Hayward, "Glitzy Christmas;" El Cerrito Plaza, "Peace on Earth;" Civic Center, "From the Silver and Blue, Happy Holidays to You;" along with the Ashby, Richmond and North Berkeley stations. A special thanks to contest judges Imelda Lehne, Public Affairs and Emily Ingram, Marketing Services. **b**



Upper left, is it the North Pole or San Francisco? The Glen Park Station won First Place in the annual Booth Decoration Contest. Left, the holiday spirit was alive at the Berkeley Station, Second Place winner in the Booth Decoration Contest. Above right, BART riders at the Embarcadero Station were reminded of the First Christmas at this Third Place winner in the Booth Decoration Contest.



Harold ("Hal") C. Nelson has been promoted to Manager of Bus Operations, announced Harley Goldstrom, Manager of Access & Facilities Planning. He replaces John Stamas, who remains in the Operations Department in charge of Support Service. Hal was previously in BART's Customer Service Department.

In his new position, Hal is responsible for the Express Bus contract, which comes up for renewal in January 1997. He will also review operations to improve service levels as the Extensions Program continues to roll out.

Before coming to BART, Hal worked for the City of Walnut Creek as Assistant City Manager and Director of Public Services and helped initiate Walnut Creek's shuttle bus service. He is also a former City Manager for the Town of Paradise in Butte County.

Esther Birch joins the District Secretary's office as Project Assistant, announced District Secretary Christine Apple. A BART employee for 21 years, Esther was previously in Power & Way Maintenance, Oakland Shop, Maintenance Control, Real Estate, System Safety, and most recently served as Administrative Assistant to the Executive Manager of Safety and Investigations. In her new role, Esther will update BART's Conflict of Interest Code, investigate converting certain records to CD-ROM and/or microfiche and reorganize internal systems. She will also be available to Directors for assignment, as needed.

Congratulations and a fond farewell to Assistant Treasurer **Alice Loo**, who retired in early January after 14 years of service to BART. She was saluted by her friends in Treasury at a retirement party on January 4.

CORRECTION: The October 1995 issue of BARTalk listed several employees who had achieved 15 years of service to the District. We incorrectly listed Barry Torgrove as Bruce Torgrove. BARTalk regrets the error. **b**

In Memory



BART employees mourn the recent loss of **Stephen Caputo**, who retired from BART in 1985 as a foreman after working as a transit vehicle mechanic since 1971. He passed away on December 19, 1995, and is remembered by many at BART for his wonderful spaghetti feeds.

A family service was held in December and son-in-law **Michael Biehn**, a foreman in component repair, advises that a memorial mass will soon be scheduled for Stephen's many friends. Michael will put out an all-sites E-mail message once the service is scheduled. **b**

All the World's a Cruise for Pete Avalos

Oakland Shops' Pete Avalos and his wife, Barbara, chose a Mediterranean Cruise to celebrate their 35th wedding anniversary last September. But the cruise line overbooked, and asked them to wait three weeks to sail the gentle seas between Italy and Spain. They agreed.

Little did they know what Princess Cruise Lines had in store. By electing to wait for a later cruise, Pete became the 250,000th passenger to board the Love Boat. For that honor, Pete and Barbara were treated like royalty for their 12-day vacation.

"We were greeted by the Captain with flowers and music – of course, playing the 'Love Boat' theme," recalls Pete. "There was a poster in our honor and our suite was upgraded, complete with flowers and champagne waiting for us when we arrived. We sat at the Captain's Table when we dined."

But that's not all. Princess Cruise Lines topped off the royal treatment by giving Pete and Barbara a Caribbean Cruise!

"We've already been to the Caribbean, so we're going to see if they'll change it to Alaska," says Pete, a material coordinator at the Oakland Vehicle Shops. Pete plans to retire this year after 20 years with BART, so he and Barbara will have plenty of time to sail the seas.

Employees will remember Pete as the Torch Bearer for BART in the 1984 Olympics. He carried the flame to Carmel. **b**

Engineering 'Brown Bag' Series Continues

BART employees interested in learning more about engineering are invited to attend the Maintenance and Engineering Department's "Brown Bag" lecture series.

Sessions feature BART engineering staff discussing a variety of topics. The 1996 series began January 25 with a session on SCADA Extensions, and continues in February with the following schedule:

- February 22** Invited Guest Program, "People Movers" Toastmasters; Noon, Metro Center, Room 254.
- March 28** "The New DAS System," Bob Murray and Ber-Name Lin, Computer Systems Engineering; Noon, Metro Center Room 016.
- April 25** TBA
- May 23** "The New Fare Collection Equipment," Bill Wong, Computer Systems Engineering; Noon, Metro Center, Room 254.

Presentations may cover projects both within and outside the Maintenance and Engineering Department, according to Chief Engineer James Dunn. To schedule a presentation, please contact Mae Meidav at ext. 6582. **b**



15 Years

15 Years with BART: Recognized for 15 years of service to BART recently were (left to right) Joseph Cocard, Aston McLachlan, Emmanuel Manaois, Theotis Jones, Nancy Harris, Gregory Graham, Joanna Full and Robin Cody.



For Sale 2 bedroom, 2.5 bath townhome. One-car attached garage, laundry room, fireplace, garden window, all new light oak cabinets throughout, new tile countertops, light and bright throughout, completely remodeled (\$22,000 worth of remodeling free), like brand new, 1250 sq. ft. Only \$120,000 **Call Carol at ext. 6125 or after 6 pm at 510/237-4738.**

House for Rent in Beautiful Tahoe Keys! 3 bedroom, 2 bath attached home on the water with it's own dock. Access to private olympic size pool and hot tub. 5 minutes from Heavenly, shopping, casinos, etc. \$100/night. **Call Bob at ext. 6457 or 510/482-4570.**

Got Traveling on the Mind? 1976 Terry Tasirus travel trailer, 21 ft., self-contained, new tires, awning, \$1,650. **Call J. Hartley, Wed-Fri, 4-1 pm at ext. 4145 or 510/782-9023 (home).**

For Lease in Vallejo 2 bedroom, 2 bath townhouse. Marble entry, fireplace, full size wash/dry, hkup., dishwasher, self-cleaning oven, A/C and one-car garage. Only 3 years old. \$850/month. **Call Karl at ext. 6485 or 707/557-5862.**

Great Buy! Wurlitzer Americana II Jukebox, 200 plays, including records, excellent condition, recently serviced, \$975. **Call John at 510/792-3445.**

Chairs for Sale! Beautiful 2-wingback chairs, Queen Anne legs, tapestry uphol., neutral colors, like new, extra wide. Purchased new at Breuners. \$500/pair. **Call John at 510/792-3445.**

Cabin for Rent Nestled in the trees. Ski at Dodge Ridge, ice skate or winter play. Sleeps 8, fully equipped. \$150/weekend, \$50/weekday, \$300/week. **Call Sue at ext. 2518 or 352-3473.**

For Rent (Lake Tahoe) "Cozy" 3 bdrm "A-Frame" cabin (sleeps 6+) in forest setting & fully equip. 2-mi so. of Tahoe City, 10 min. walk to private beach w/boat docks, BBQ & table, grass and game area, panoramic views, nearby dining, shops, biking, walking trails, casinos and skiing. \$100/night - \$575/wk. **Call Dennis at Ext. 2821 or 510/828-0744.** (Photo book available)

Time to clean out those drawers, closets and garages! **BARTalk's Trash and Treasures** column offers you an opportunity to pick up some extra cash for those unwanted items you no longer need. Send your ads—no telephone calls—to *Trash & Treasures*, *BARTalk*, LMA-1; E-mail to *VWills*; or Fax to 464-7103.



For BART Employees Only!

In Touch with BART

Want to hear up-to-date information from the General Manager's office? What about unions and associations? Or Human Resources and Development? Or the progress of BART's extensions?

All you have to do is call 464-6300 and the information will be right at the tip of your finger. You've reached the BART Employee Information Hotline.

The new Hotline is an outgrowth of the Joint Labor-Management Committee, which has been meeting regularly since January, 1995.

The Hotline messages will be changed every week. Give the Hotline a call. Reach out and get in touch with what's going on at BART.

b



BARTalk

A publication for and about the employees of the San Francisco Bay Area Rapid Transit District

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